



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form Centre**

SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2019



Happy Easter!

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. It's been a busy and exciting term for students and staff.

One of the tremendous highlights was the wonderful performance of our Chamber Choir who performed the *Dunelm Lux Aeterna* at Durham Cathedral. It was a privilege to be invited to perform at such a prestigious event and we are all immensely proud of our students.

Our Art department has been particularly industrious this term and we have showcased some outstanding pieces of work on our website for you to enjoy. The Art department, together with The Witham, have created some memorable and thought-provoking pieces of work for the 'Men's Voices' project. Members of our sixth form have just returned from an inspiring trip to Athens, where they worked on the Erasmus 'Lost in Space' project. They made new friends and many memories.

I am delighted with how hard all of our students are working, especially Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for their exams. They have coped well and used the time sensibly and effectively to prepare for the weeks ahead.

The renovation of the school will continue over the Easter holidays. We hope the children will be delighted with the results. Plans for the new sports barn are also taking shape, the first stages of the work will begin shortly.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

Executive Headteacher



Chamber choir perform at Durham Cathedral

Well done to our chamber choir who gave an accomplished world premier performance of the *Dunelm Lux Aeterna* at Durham Cathedral.

The performance was a culmination of a project which has been ongoing since July 2018. The piece was commissioned by the Durham Music Service and our students worked with professional composer, Paul Smith, and vocal group, VOCES8, to create, rehearse and perform the work as part of the third annual Durham Vocal Festival. It was an amazing opportunity for students to perform in such a prestigious venue - well done!

BOOK REVIEW:

Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo

Do you ever get bored of reading about good guys whose only goal is to save the world? If so, then Leigh Bardugo's thrilling world of moral ambiguities and anti-heroes is for you.

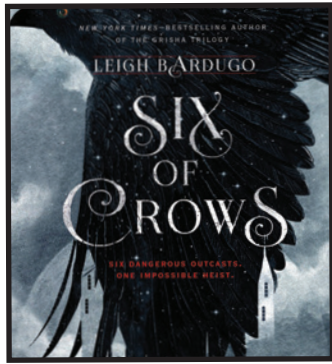
Renowned thief, Kaz Brekker, has been offered a job that could leave him rolling in the money. But breaking into the Ice Court is no small feat and Kaz can't do it by himself - he'll need a crew to carry out one impossible heist. Kaz and his crew will risk their lives to make themselves filthy rich, but can they get along (and not kill each other!) long enough to pull it off?

Deliciously devious plots and cunning plans thread together Bardugo's brilliant world of fantasy. The characters within the novel inhabit a sort of moral grey-area where death is no object and money rules their world, making the novel itself very dark and gory. The six different viewpoints the story is written from each give the characters a unique drive for delving into the criminal world. This is what makes 'Six of Crows' one of the best books I have ever read. The depth of character created by seeing them from both an exterior and interior point of view and the mingling of magic and street-smarts seems to be a common theme in many of Bardugo's novels.

I would not recommend this book to younger or less advanced readers. The novel deals with some very serious themes and contains a good deal of gory description. But this all contributes to the creation of Bardugo's intriguing criminal world of magic and lies. I would give this book:



By Daisy Goodwin



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22 APR - EASTER MONDAY

23 APR - RETURN TO SCHOOL

6 MAY - BANK HOLIDAY

24 MAY - BREAK UP FOR
SUMMER HALF TERM

3 JUN - RETURN TO SCHOOL

19 JUL - BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

4 SEPT - BACK TO SCHOOL

To keep up to date with all news
and events please visit:

www.teesdaleschool.co.uk



Blake wins writing competition

Congratulations to talented Year 7 student Blake who won our recent postcard competition after producing a beautiful piece of descriptive writing.

Blake won the competition, set by Head of English Mrs Bissicks, and as a reward had his writing printed on our new English praise postcards.

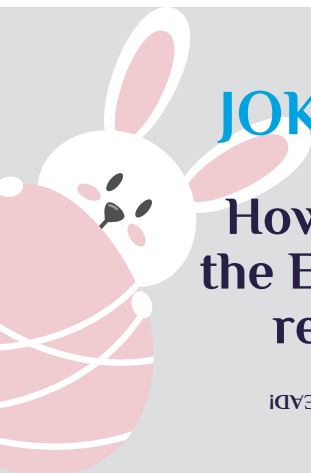
Mrs Bissicks commented: "The standard of entries was extremely high, but Blake's stood out because of the high-quality vocabulary and the varied, ambitious punctuation. The whole process has been a delight!"

You can read the winning piece of writing on our school website. Well done Blake, we look forward to reading more of your wonderful writing soon.

JOKE CORNER

How do we know
the Easter bunny is
really smart?

BECAUSE HE IS AN EGG-HEAD!



Can you solve the following riddles?

1. I am the beginning of eternity, as well as the end of time and space. I am essential to creation and I surround every place. What am I?

2. What's the best way to talk to a monster?

3. When I'm young I'm tall, when I'm old I'm short, when I'm alive I glow, because of your breath I die. What am I?

4. Every time you stand up, you lose this. What is it?

5. What has a head, a tail, is brown and has no legs?

6. What is more useful when it is broken?

7. You have me today, tomorrow you'll have more; as your time passes, I'm not easy to store; I don't take up space, but I'm only in one place; I am what you saw, but not what you see. What am I?

1. The letter E. 2. Long distance. 3. A candle. 4. Your lap. 5. A penny. 6. An egg. 7. Memories.



Male staff wear make-up in aid of CALM charity

This term our Sixth Form Student Committee teamed up with male members of staff to raise money for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), a male mental health charity who raise money to help combat male suicide.

Six male members of staff agreed to step outside of their comfort zones and wear make-up all day. Students were invited to sponsor them, with the teacher who received the most sponsorship having their picture shared on social media.

The initiative raised £176 with Dr Henderson attracting the most sponsorship after a last minute donation from Dr Gorchach (or was it blusher) of Mr Williams.

Men in the UK remain three

times more likely than women to commit suicide, with the most at risk group being those aged 45 to 49. CALM aims to challenge male stereotypes by encouraging positive help-seeking behaviour.

Men are often uncomfortable talking about mental health issues, so the Sixth Form Committee came up with this novel way of raising awareness and money.

Find out more about CALM at: www.thecalmzone.net

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@teesdaleschool



@teesdaleschool
andsixthform

Aspiring lawyers attend law conference

Three Year 12 students, Isabella, Eden and Kara, who are interested in a future career in law, went to a law conference organised by the Young Citizens Foundation.

The students were given a case file to study prior to the conference. They worked with sixth formers from other schools and Durham University law students to prepare the

case for and against the accused. A barrister from a leading law firm played the role of the judge as students delivered their arguments and cross-examined the witnesses.

The students had a really enjoyable and informative time and it has confirmed their interest in studying law in the future.

Students get arty!

Our art department has been extremely busy this term with our talented students creating some outstanding pieces of artwork

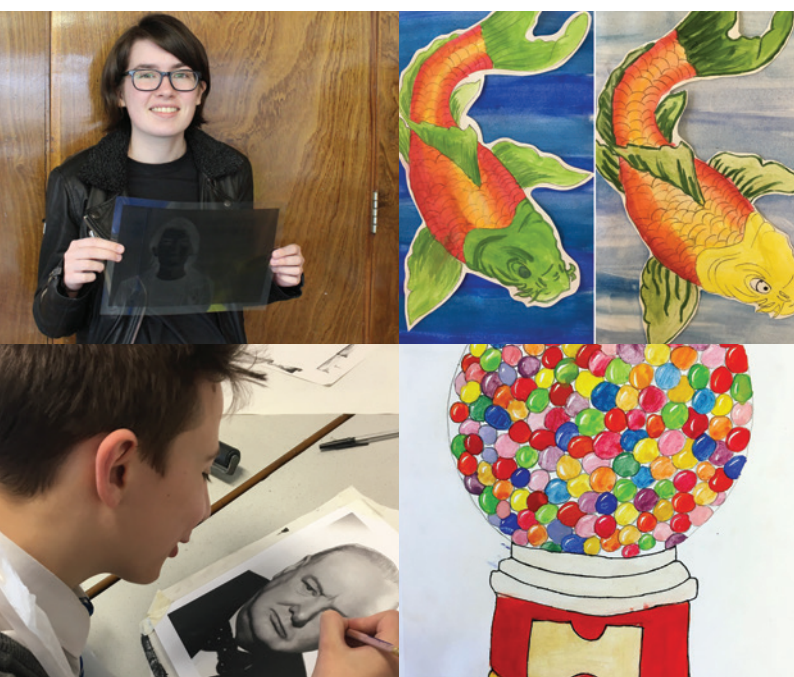
Year 7 artists have developed their watercolour skills, whilst studying a project based on sweets. After looking at the work of American painter, Wayne Thiebaud, students explored different watercolour techniques before applying these skills to create their own gumball machine paintings.

Year 8 artists have been developing their watercolour painting skills too, focusing on the theme of 'Asia' by investigating the meaning of Koi Carp in Japanese culture to create beautiful paintings.

Year 9 artists started an exciting art project with visiting artist, Pollyanna Turner. The project started with a visit to The Witham in Barnard Castle to view its current exhibition, *Men's Voices: Stepping Out of the Box*. The exhibition examines masculinity by asking how gender stereotypes have shaped males in the north east. Following the visit, students took part in the first of six workshops that build on the underlying themes from their visit. In their first session, they worked with Polly to create mono-prints of people they admire. Next, the students will start investigating different materials and techniques, culminating in their artwork forming part of a body of work to be exhibited at The Witham later in the year. Watch this space...

Finally, some students have been putting the new darkroom to use to develop their photography skills by creating photograms, negatives and enlarging their own photos.

Why not visit our website for more details and even more pictures...



Sixth Form enjoy trip to Athens

Last week, six of our sixth form students visited Athens in Greece to work on the Erasmus Lost in Space project.

The exciting project is designed to enable students to study different aspects of astronomy alongside students from Greece, France, Spain, Croatia and Italy.

As well as learning about approaches to astronomy over time in different countries, our students also explored many of the sites of historical interest in Athens. These included the Acropolis, The Museum of Ancient Greek Technology, and the Panathenaic Stadium (built in 330BC and the site of the first Olympics).

The trip is the first of six different weeks of activities spread over the next two years and is another enriching opportunity for students.

Over the next 18 months we will be able to send approximately 1 in 3 of our sixth formers on a FREE foreign study visit. Yet another benefit of post-16 study at Teesdale School!

Watch this space for details of the next visit later this year and for how to get involved when we host the last leg of the project in 2020.

JOKE CORNER

What kind of bunny can't hop?

A chocolate bunny!